

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuya SHIBAYAMA

Title: STEERING COLUMN FOR A VEHICLE

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: JUL 22 2003

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Document A2 discloses a vehicle steering shaft bearing box and the process for its manufacturing.

Documents A1 and A2 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A3 discloses a motor driven power steering device of the shock absorption type.

Document A4 discloses a column structure of a steering shaft.

Document A5 discloses the manufacture of a pipe.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise

Atty. Dkt. No. 051841-0108

improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date JUL 22 2003

By Richard L. Schwaab

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22428

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT			
Date Submitted: JUL 22 2003		Application Number	Unassigned
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date	JUL 22 2003
Sheet	1	First Named Inventor	Kazuya SHIBAYAMA
	of	Group Art Unit	Unassigned
		Examiner Name	Unassigned
		Attorney Docket Number	051841-0108

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A2	JP	10-67336	A	STYNER & BIENZ AG	03/10/1998		Abstract
	A3	JP	2000-159043	A	KOYO SEIKO CO., LTD.	06/13/2000		Abstract
	A4	JP	2001-278070	A	DAIHATSU MOTOR CO., LTD.	10/10/2000		Abstract
	A5	JP	63-154236	A	TOYOTA MOTOR CORP.	06/27/1988		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁸

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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